

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for stimulating the growth of fingernails, toe nails, and
2 hooves in a mammal, comprising administering to the nail and nail bed a composition that
3 comprises a ionic metal-peptide complex in an amount effective to increase nail growth and
4 produce stronger and smoother nail.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the ionic metal is selected from the
2 group consisting of copper (II) or tin (II) and therapeutically acceptable salts and complexes
3 thereof.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the ionic metal is copper (II).

1 4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the peptide of the ionic
2 metal-peptide complex is an enzymatic hydrolysis of casein, collagen, elastin, meat products,
3 silk protein, or soybean protein.

1 5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the peptide of the ionic
2 metal-peptide complex is an acid hydrolysis of casein, collagen, elastin, meat products, silk
3 protein, or soybean protein.

1 6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the peptide of the ionic
2 metal-peptide complex is a basic hydrolysis of casein, collagen, elastin, meat products, silk
3 protein, or soybean protein.

1 7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the peptide of the ionic
2 metal-peptide complex is a bacterial hydrolysis of casein, collagen, elastin, meat products,
3 silk protein, or soybean protein.

1 8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the peptide of the ionic
2 metal-peptide complex is a chemically synthesized copper binding peptide.

1 9. The method according to claim 1, wherein the peptide of the ionic
2 metal-peptide complex is a chemically synthesized peptide and the ionic metal is copper (II),
3 or tin (II).

1 10. The method according to claim 1, wherein the ionic metal-peptide
2 complex is combined with a carrier to form a cream or lotion.

1 11. The method according to claim 1, wherein the concentration of the
2 ionic metal-peptide complex in the composition is 1% to 25%.

1 12. A method for improving nail and hoof health, smoothness, and
2 strength in a mammal, comprising administering to the nail or hoof of said mammal a
3 pharmaceutical composition that comprises a ionic metal-peptide complex in an amount
4 effective to stimulate growth and repair and smooth the organ.